

Minutes for the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Thursday, 1 March 2018

Government Office Building 6731 Gateway Drive Columbia, Maryland

ATTENDANCE: Jonathan Branch, Christopher Williams, Robert Lowell, Craig Porterfield, Lisa Terry, Bob Moore, Howard Mooney GUESTS: Yale Stenzler, Tom Glenn, John Way, Eric Rome, Jessica Rome, Bob Chew, Ronna Corman-Chew, Ed Hall

Howard called the meeting to order at 1903. Guests were introduced. Ed stated that Col Schott was in Howard County Hospital. Minutes were reviewed and approved. Bob Moore was left off of the attendance. It was noted and corrected.

Howard noted the Howard County Veterans Resource Fair will be held on April 10 from 5-8pm at the North Laurel Community Center. It was noted that our next meeting would be held on May 3 and June 7. The commission does not meet in July or August.

Howard and Greg reviewed the VFW Roundtable with Senator Cardin and Greg's notes were shared.. The monument fundraising event will be held on March 4 at the Hysteria Brewery and it is sold out. The commission will present an award to the Oakland Mills US JROTC Color Guard on March 7 at 6:15 PM.

Lisa stated that she is going to create an Eventbrite for the resource fair for accountability. She discussed details of the event. Bob Lowell also discussed the Veterans Treatment Court situation. Yale agreed to collect donations for McVet at the Fair. Lisa provided details about the meeting with the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, along with Ed Hall and John Sheldon. Howard shared events for Vietnam Veterans on March 29 and 30.

Howard stated that we have 8 businesses participating in the Veterans parking initiative. Veterans monument project update, waiting for 501c3 approval. Ed suggested that we should set a goal for the project. He suggested \$950K. Contributions can be made directly to the Howard County Veterans Foundation website. Further discussion at next meeting.

Ed gave a briefing of the meeting with the Joint Military Council. He stated the JMC will expound on the Flag Retirement Ceremony and the Reserved Veteran Parking Initiative. He also discussed the Vet-in-School program. Ed also introduced the Veteran Friendly Business concept. He mentioned 8 criteria with a business only required to meet 3.

It was also mentioned that the commission would be placed in the chain of command of the Veterans Day Parade. Ed also mentioned the loss of WWII veteran Don Reglin. Several American Legion members attended his ceremony. Howard mentioned HB 362 and SB 312 which would exempt military retirement from state taxes, gradually, if it passes. Howard encouraged the commission to support this initiative. Howard also discussed the Howard County Veterans Day Parade. Howard also discussed the Volunteer of the Year nomination process for next year.

Chris attended the state's suicide prevention task force for the commission. He discussed the event. Howard discussed the commission recognition program. Ed informed the commission that the flag retirement ceremony would be held on 17 March starting at 1000. Having flag retirement boxes at various locations was also discussed. Eric Rome, A1 Carpet owner, discussed his programs/discounts to support veterans.

Lisa discussed getting more visibility for veteran friendly businesses. Bob Chew also mentioned that the commission should come up with criteria and recommendations for veterans who may need assistance. A discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 2032

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch